

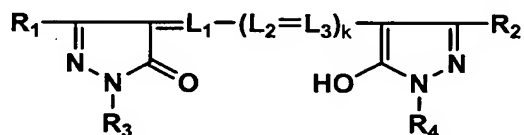
What is claimed is:

1. An image forming method comprising:

exposing a silver halide photographic material and
processing the photographic material,

wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by the following formula (1) and a white area of the processed photographic material exhibits perception chromaticity indexes a and b of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0, respectively, wherein said a and b are defined in JIS-Z-8730 and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-8722:

formula (1)



wherein R₁ and R₂ are each -CN, -COOR or -CONR₇R₈; R₃ and R₄ are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a cycloalkyl group, an aryl group or a heterocyclic group; L₁, L₂ and L₃ are each a methine group and k is 2, provided that the respective -L₂=L₃- may be the same or different; R₅ and R₆ are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group or an aryl group; R₇ and R₈ are each a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an alkenyl group, an

aryl group or a heterocyclic group or R_7 and R_8 may combine with an adjacent nitrogen atom to form a 5- or 6-membered ring, provided that R_7 and R_8 are not hydrogen atoms at the same time and at least one of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 is a water-solubilizing group or a group containing a water-solubilizing group.

2. An image forming method comprising:

exposing a silver halide photographic material and
processing the photographic material,

wherein the photographic material is exposed by
scanning exposure with a light beam and a white area of the
photographic material exhibits perception chromaticity
indexes a and b of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0,
respectively, wherein said a and b are defined in JIS-Z-8730
and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-
8722.

3. An image forming method comprising:

exposing a silver halide photographic material and
processing the photographic material,

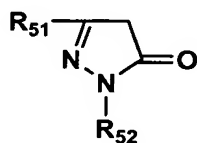
wherein the photographic material contains a compound
represented by formula (1) as claimed in claim 1, the

photographic material is exposed by scanning exposure with a light beam and a white area of the processed photographic material exhibits perception chromaticity indexes a and b of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0, respectively, wherein said a and b are defined in JIS-Z-8730 and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-8722.

4. The image forming method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the total amount of gelatin contained in the photographic material is not more than 6.2 g/m².

5. The image forming method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by the following formula (2):

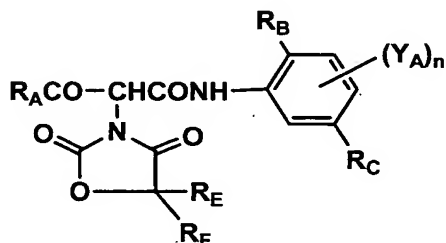
formula (2)



wherein R₅₁ is a carbonamide group or an anilino group; R₅₂ is a phenyl group which may be substituted.

6. The image forming method as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by the following formula (3):

formula (3)



wherein R_A is an alkyl group; R_B is a halogen atom or an alkoxy group; R_C is COOR_{D1} , $-\text{COOR}_{D2}\text{COOR}_{D1}$, $-\text{NHCOR}_{D2}\text{SO}_2\text{R}_{D1}$, $-\text{N}(\text{R}_{D3})\text{SO}_2\text{R}_{D1}$ or $-\text{SO}_2\text{N}(\text{R}_{D3})\text{R}_{D1}$, in which R_{D1} is a univalent organic group, R_{D2} is an alkylene group and R_{D3} is an alkyl group, an aralkyl group or a hydrogen atom; Y_A is a univalent organic group; n is 0 or 1; R_E and R_F are each a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group.

7. A silver halide photographic material, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by formula (1) as claimed in claim 1 and a white area of the photographic material processed in standard process A exhibits perception chromaticity indexes a and b of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0, respectively, wherein said a

and b are defined in JIS-Z-8730 and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-8722.

8. A silver halide photographic material, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by formula (2) as claimed in claim 5 and a white area of the photographic material processed in standard process A exhibits perception chromaticity indexes a and b of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0, respectively, wherein said a and b are defined in JIS-Z-8730 and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-8722.

9. A silver halide photographic material, wherein the photographic material contains a compound represented by formula (3) as claimed in claim 6 and a white area of the photographic material processed in standard process A exhibits perception chromaticity indexes a and b of from 0.0 to +2.0 and from -2.2 to -4.0, respectively, wherein said a and b are defined in JIS-Z-8730 and measured in accordance with a method defined in JIS-Z-8722.